

In the Claims:

Cancel claims 4-11 without prejudice.

Amend claims 1 and 2 as follows.

1. (Amended) [A] An isolated nucleic acid [sequence comprising], wherein said nucleic acid is operatively linked to a heterologous sequence, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises any one of the [nucleic acid] sequences of SEQ ID [NOs] NOS: 1-20, or a subfragment nucleic acid [sequence] derived from any one of the sequences of SEQ ID [NOs] NOS: 1-20, said subfragment comprising said nucleic acid that has been shortened at the 5' or 3' end, or internally deleted, wherein an mRNA molecule comprising said nucleic acid [sequence], or an mRNA comprising said subfragment nucleic acid has RNA binding protein (RBP) binding activity or regulates the functionality of said [mRNA] nucleic acid.

2. (Amended) The nucleic acid [sequence] of claim 1, wherein said subfragment nucleic acid [sequence] is optimized such that said subfragment has RNA/RBP binding activity and/or RNA functionality that is equivalent to said nucleic acid from which said subfragment is derived.

Add new claims 12-31 as follows.

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--12. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 1 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 1.

13. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 2 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 2.

14. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 3 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 3.

15. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 4 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 4.

16. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 5 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 5.

17. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 6 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 6.

18. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 7 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 7.

19. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 8 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ

ID NO: 8.

20. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 9 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 9.

21. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 10 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 10.

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22. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 11 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 11.

23. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 12 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 12.

24. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 13 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 13.

25. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 14 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 14.

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26. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 15 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 15.

27. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 16 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 16.

28. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 17 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 17.

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29. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 18 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 18.

30. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 19 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 19.

31. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleotide sequence of said nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 20 or a subfragment nucleic acid derived from SEQ ID NO: 20--